

What if I have to burn?

DEQ recommends that you...

- Use alternatives to burning whenever possible.
- Always check with your local fire district about permit requirements.
- Always check DEQ's hotline or Web site for air quality conditions.
- Burn during the middle of the day when smoke will disperse.
- Burn when fuels are dry and well aerated so the fire is hot. Wet or dirt covered materials will smolder and create more smoke.
- Build piles in open areas away from overhead branches and wires.
- Scrape away burnable materials several feet around piles. The result should be bare soil.
- Never leave fire unattended and have fire suppression equipment and water available.
- Burn at least 50 feet away from any structure.
- If a burn has the potential to cause visibility hazards on roadways, contact the local or state transportation agency prior to burning for applicable traffic control requirements.

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Where can I get more information?

State Agency Contacts

For more information about air quality conditions, or options to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste, contact:

Department of Environmental Quality

- Boise Regional Office: (208) 373-0550
- State Office: (208) 373-0502
- www.deq.state.id.us

For information about agricultural burning permit, contact:

Idaho Department of Agriculture

- State Office: (208) 332-8500
- South Idaho Complaint Hotline: (866) 435-0490
- www.idahoag.us

Public Health Districts

- Central District Health (Ada County): (208) 334-6700
- Southwest District Health (Canyon County): (208) 455-7101

Fire Departments

Ada County.....	377-7375
Boise City.....	377-7351
Caldwell.....	455-3032
Eagle.....	939-6463
Garden City.....	375-0906
Homedale.....	337-3450
Kuna.....	922-1144
Meridian.....	888-1234
Middleton.....	585-6650
Nampa.....	465-2240
Parma.....	722-5716
Star.....	286-7772
Upper Deer Flat Rural Fire Dept.	466-0670
Whitney.....	375-6407
Wilder.....	482-7563
Southwest Idaho.....	1-800-233-1212

The Burning Questions...

Treasure Valley's Open Burning Rules



**Idaho Department of
Environmental Quality**

What is open burning?

Open burning is any burning conducted outdoors that creates smoke that does not pass through a stack, duct, or chimney. It includes residential, agricultural, and prescribed fires.

How does smoke affect me?

Smoke pollutes the air with fine particles and gases that get into our lungs every time we take a breath.

Smoke...

- Makes breathing difficult
- Causes lung irritation
- Contributes to heart and lung disease
- Causes poor visibility on the roads
- Is a nuisance to your neighbors

What are some alternatives to burning?

- Compost yard and other vegetative waste
- Recycle newspaper and cardboard
- Make woodchips out of clean woodwaste

What is agricultural burning?

Agricultural burning includes burning post-harvest crop residue, weed control along fencelines and ditches, and orchard trimmings.

Always call the Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA) at (208) 332-8500 before you conduct any agricultural burning to obtain the appropriate permit.

Contact ISDA at (208) 332-8500 for more information, or visit www.idahoag.us/crop/crdinfo.htm

What are the rules?

Statewide:

DEQ's open burning rules are applicable statewide and can be found at www.deq.state.id.us/air/smoke/rules_openburning.htm

Locally:

In the Treasure Valley, local ordinances restrict, or in some cases, prohibit open burning. Always check with your local fire district to get the proper permit and to find out if burn restrictions are in effect.

A general summary of local ordinances that deal with burning in the Treasure Valley can be found at www.deq.state.id.us/air/dailyreports/ordinance_summary.pdf

☞ **Always** call the Air Quality Index (AQI) hotline at 373-0313 or check DEQ's Web site at www.deq.state.id.us/air/monitoring/bro_aq1.htm on the day you plan to burn to ensure the air quality is alright for you to burn.

What can't I burn?

- x Garbage
- x Tires or other rubber materials
- x Plastics
- x Asphaltic and composition roofing
- x Tar and petroleum materials
- x Paints
- x Wood treated with preservatives
- x Commercial, industrial, or construction waste
- x Other materials prohibited by local and state laws

What is an "Air Quality Alert"?

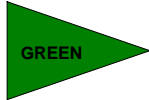

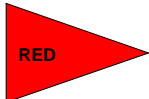
DEQ may issue alerts based on weather and air quality conditions. Notices are announced through email, internet postings, radio, television, and newspapers.

Treasure Valley Air Quality Forecast

To find out about daily air quality conditions and air quality alerts:

- visit www.deq.state.id.us/air/monitoring/bro_aq1.htm
- call Treasure Valley Air Quality Information Line: (208) 373-0313

Air quality alerts in the Treasure Valley:

	Green means no mandatory restrictions are in place ...enjoy the clean air!
	Yellow means air quality is deteriorating.
	Red means air quality is poor and forecasted to worsen.

By making better choices, you can reduce pollution and help the environment.